

# Sir Percy & 'Beetle' Smith Cut Soviet's Spy Line

By DR. KURT SINGER

The four most powerful men in the world of espionage in our generation have been Russia's Lavrenti Beria, Germany's Admiral Canaris, Britain's Sir Percy Sillitoe and the United States' Allen Welsh Dulles.

Beria and his spies had been successful in obtaining blueprints of the B-25 bombers and of the critical structure of the Nagasaki atom bomb.

Klaus Fuchs supplies the atomic information from the British side, the two Rosenbergs from the American side. Dr. Pontecorvo betrayed the West's cosmic ray research, and two British diplomats escaped into Russia with secret information on British-American defense plans.

The main British code also had fallen into Russian hands. No wonder Lavrenti Beria and his office were confident their apparatus could not be matched.

## WARNINGS UNHEEDED

On the other hand, U. S. intelligence offices had failed to convince statesmen of the West of an impending war in Korea. The intelligence agencies of France and Britain did not foresee the preparations and implications of the invasion of Indo-China and Malayan territory.

Then suddenly Beria's secret agents began to have difficulties. His spies were brought to trial. Security checkups prevented other spy infiltration. All along the line their activities were seriously hampered.

One challenge to Soviet espionage supremacy and the tightening of Western intelligence policies was due to Sir Percy Sillitoe, six-foot-two-inch chief of Britain's famous M. I. 5 Service.

When Britain's first atom bomb was exploded in Australia during the fall of 1952, Sir Percy was even more proud than the scientists who actually developed the weapon. One year before the explosion he had visited Australia and personally supervised and set up intricate precautions against any possible enemy agent infiltration.

He knows that for some time no foreign agent has been able to operate successfully in the British Commonwealth. He has achieved this security against the enemies of democracy by constant traveling and on-the-spot observation, by tightening of supervision, by asking for new spy legislation. Sir Percy knows all the tricks used by the Russian secret service.

## THE FARMER TYPE

The tall espionage chief of Britain is now 64 and looks more like a simple farmer than a military expert and a constable and police officer, an austere man noted for his common sense and sense of justice.



Sir Percy



Beria



Gen. Smith



Dulles

*Second of five stories by a former U. S. intelligence agent who is author of 21 books and is noted as a lecturer. The stories are from his latest book published by Beacon Press.*

Sir Percy avoids all social affairs or parties in the belief that such activity might endanger his job of protecting Britain and the West against continued Soviet espionage.

The United Nations estimated in 1949 that Britain had 3860 intelligence officers—which is only a fraction of Russia's vast spy corps. Undoubtedly this figure has now been doubled, but it is quality and not quantity that Sillitoe stresses.

Since Britain's ace spy catcher took over his job in 1946, the man and his work have been wrapped in secrecy. Not even the Russians knew when Sir Percy and Gen. Bedell Smith met to map a new strategy against the grave diggers of Western democracy.

## MIND READER

Gen. Smith was America's first cold war intelligence chief. He has been a confidant of three presidents: Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower. Thanks to him, also, the Russians began to learn that they, too, could lose spy battles.

When Gen. Bedell Smith accepted his post as intelligence chief, he said:

*"I have no illusions. I am asked no more than to guess the most secret thoughts of Papa Stalin and of God himself. Only so far I am not convinced that President Truman is really interested in what God has planned."*

And he added:

*"The only thing, fundamentally, which is worth knowing, is the day and hour on which the Russians will attack. Everything else is secondary and unimportant."*

The general is one of the most

colorful gentlemen America's military forces have produced during the last three decades.

Not many photographs of him are in existence, for he has never used his public relations apparatus in his own behalf, but he looks young, trim, and vigorous. Insiders knew him as the hardest working man at the Pentagon. They respected him; they loved him; and they wondered how one man could achieve as much as he did. His manner, as the Russians know, is always straightforward. His voice is harsh, he never wastes a word, he is always courteous and understanding, with time for everyone who needs him.

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**TOMORROW: America's Spymaster: Allen Welsh Dulles.**